

Woodminster
TR 5C FEB 16 1958

Underground in the hills overlooking the homes and industries of Oakland, a second city hall has been wired for disaster.

It sits, a symbol of calamity, under the Woodminster Amphitheater of Joaquin Miller Park—desks and maps, radios and telephones, halls and rooms.

Once a storage area, it is now the Oakland Civil Defense Control Center, a self-contained headquarters designed to function in any catastrophe.

In it, communications facilities are ready to keep civil defense operable in emergency and the city government can continue to function.

Concrete Walls

The center is surrounded by double concrete walls, 14 to 24 inches thick. A 60-kilowatt diesel generator will keep it running even if the rest of the city's power is out. There is enough fuel, water and food to last for more than 30 days if the emergency continues.

In a civil defense alert, the fire station personnel from the Joaquin Miller Road station have been trained to put the center into operation until the regular staff of about 125 persons can get on the job.

Workers sitting at 20 telephones get information from the field on the size and extent of disaster and relay it to a communications control room. Information comes in also by radio and teletype.

From the communications room, word is passed to civil defense service chiefs in an adjoining staff room. The engineering department charts all of the activity on a large wall map, noting locations of fires and roadblocks.

Ham Operators

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Both the police and fire departments can operate from the control center. The Civil Air Patrol has a communications setup there, and ham operators man still other radios.

The phones particularly — lined up against a wall in brooding silence now — give some indication of the activity which would accompany disaster. Each phone has a different outside number, for use by civil defense personnel, but if one phone is busy, the next one will automatically ring — and so forth down the line.

The center, complete with equipment, represents an investment of \$175,000. It is continually maintained, and its equipment tested. Civil defense classes are held there to familiarize them not only with the elements of disaster, but with the function of the disaster office.

The hope is that the underground emergency center — activated by bomb or earthquake — will never have to be used. But if the situation arises where its design and function must be put to the ultimate test, it stands ready to do a job that may be the price of existence in an age of uneasiness.

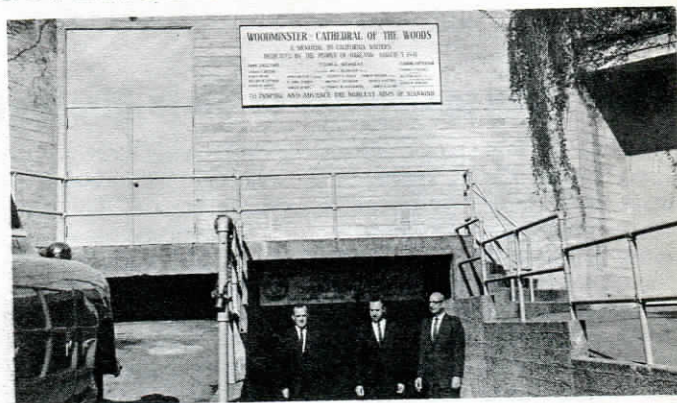
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA - CONTINUOUSLY GOOD C.D.



A daily operation of moving shelter supplies from the Oakland Naval Supply Center to Oakland shelters is directed by Supply Coordinator Bill Prather, center. He is assisted by prison trustees. The Oakland CD Emergency Medical unit is used to move the shelter supplies.



Filled water drums are stored in the Oakland EOC. Left, Ray McCormick, and right, Lt. Ellis F. Goode.



Oakland civil defense officials leave their EOC. Left to right: Merle Askey, RADEF Officer; Lt. Ellis F. Goode, Chief Deputy Director; and Ray McCormick, Deputy Director, and Fallout Shelter Coordinator.



Lt. Ellis F. Goode discusses shelter locations with Oakland Mayor John C. Houlihan.

The City of Oakland has, through the years, maintained a continuously good civil defense organization. Day-by-day it continues to draw shelter supplies from the Oakland Naval Supply warehouse, move the supplies to shelters, fill all the water drums, and maintain an active training program.

The Oakland Civil Defense organization operates from a natural emergency operations center, situated underneath the structure of the Woodminster Amphitheater, 8 miles from the center of Oakland. The amphitheater was built many years ago as a WPA project. It is constructed entirely of reinforced steel and concrete and has a protection factor varying from 100 to 400. There is a catacomb that could be used to provide additional space and protection. The city's day-to-day operation is conducted from this EOC.

The EOC has two separate heating plants and a large air-conditioning unit. There is a 60-kw emergency diesel generator, kitchen facilities to feed as many as 150 persons, stored canned goods on hand, and a 100-gallon heated water storage tank. The CD communications and warning facilities are operated from this EOC.

Oakland has 7 full time civil defense employees. The Chief Deputy Director is Police Lt. Ellis F. Goode. Chief of Police Edwin M. Toothman is the Assistant Civil Defense

Director and reports to City Manager Wayne E. Thompson, the Director and Vice Chairman of the Oakland Civil Defense and Disaster Council. Mayor John C. Houlihan is the Chairman of the Council.

Each member of the Oakland CD staff has completed at least one training course at the OCD Western Training Center at Alameda. In turn, Shelter Manager and RADEF Monitoring courses have been given in the city.

The city has used around \$75,000 in Federal matching funds in Fiscal Year 1963. They also utilize Federal funds for personnel and administration, and make use of surplus Federal property for civil defense purposes.

The city has 22 warning sirens and 3 more are being added, giving them more coverage.

In the shelter program, Oakland has been one of the most consistent cities in Region 7 in stocking its public shelters. Bill Prather, the supply Coordinator, working with prison trustees, has worked steadily day in and day out. To date Oakland has licensed spaces for 285,000 persons; marked spaces for 284,000 persons; and stocked spaces for 98,000 persons. Prather and his men have filled the water drums they have delivered to shelters. Many of the large department stores in Oakland, the large Kaiser Center, and the Oakland Tribune Building have shelter supplies in them.